

Week Ending Friday, March 7, 2008

Proclamation 8223—Irish-American Heritage Month, 2008

February 29, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Since the earliest days of our Republic, Irish Americans have enriched our culture with their faith, values, and hard work. During the month of March, we celebrate the contributions of Americans who trace their ancestry back to Ireland's shores.

Many of the sons and daughters of Erin came to America fleeing famine and poverty. They came with dreams of opportunity, and they helped to build our democracy and advance the cause of liberty. Irish Americans in all walks of life have made lasting contributions to our Nation, and we honor the service of Irish Americans in America's Armed Forces. Throughout our history, those claiming Irish ancestry have helped shape and strengthen America, including as signers of the Declaration of Independence and as Presidents of the United States.

This month, we celebrate the patriotic and proud people who originated from the Emerald Isle and who have played a vital role in the story of this Nation of immigrants.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2008 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by celebrating the contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United

States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:55 a.m., March 4, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8224—National Consumer Protection Week, 2008

February 29, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

As we face new challenges in the 21st century, we must work to ensure that Americans are kept safe in the marketplace. During National Consumer Protection Week, as my Administration works with Congress to improve our consumer product safety system, we also encourage Americans to make informed financial decisions and take advantage of the resources that can help them become responsible consumers, savers, and investors.

This year's theme for National Consumer Protection Week, "Financial Literacy: A Sound Investment," encourages consumers to take steps to build a firm financial foundation. By becoming informed consumers, individuals can help plan for their future, protect their identity, and effectively manage their finances. It is important for citizens to be knowledgeable on financial matters such as choosing a health insurance plan, comparing savings and retirement plans, and realizing how credit scores can affect them. Education is the first line of defense in helping consumers manage their money wisely and safeguard themselves against fraud and identity theft.